

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A method for manufacturing a pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel for use in slab electrophoresis, said method comprising:

(a) placing a gel-forming liquid mixture inside a gel enclosure defined by a pair of chemically inert, transparent plates separated from each other by fixed distance, said gel-forming mixture comprising an acrylamide monomer, a crosslinking agent, a buffer, and a nonionic amphiphilic polymer, in aqueous solution; and

(b) polymerizing said gel-forming mixture into a gel; **and**

~~(c) storing said gel for at least 5 days prior to use in slab electrophoresis~~

wherein the nonionic amphiphilic polymer is selected from polyethylene oxide and polyethylene glycol in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.3% by weight.

**Claim 2 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 8,000,000.

**Claim 3 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 5,000,000.

**Claim 4 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 1,000,000.

**Claim 5 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of about 100,000 or less.

**Claim 6 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of about 20,000 or less.

**Claims 7 - 13 (canceled)**

**Claim 14 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said plates are glass.

**Claim 15 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 1 in which said plates are plastic.

**Claim 16 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 15 in which said plastic is a member selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polystyrene, acrylic polymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, acrylonitrile polymers, poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene terephthalate glycolate), and poly(ethylene naphthalenedicarboxylate).

**Claim 17 (original):** A method in accordance with claim 15 in which said plastic is a polystyrene-acrylonitrile blend.

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel for use in slab gel electrophoresis, said pre-cast slab gel comprising:

a pair of chemically inert, transparent plates, and

a polyacrylamide gel cast between said plates, said polyacrylamide gel formed by polymerization of an acrylamide monomer and a crosslinking agent, said polymerization having been performed in an aqueous solution comprising said acrylamide monomer, said crosslinking agent, a buffer, and a nonionic amphiphilic polymer, ~~and said gel thus formed having been stored between said plates for at least 5 days prior to use in slab gel electrophoresis wherein the nonionic amphiphilic polymer is selected from polyethylene oxide and polyethylene glycol in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.3% by weight.~~

**Claim 19 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 8,000,000.

**Claim 20 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 5,000,000.

**Claim 21 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of from about 100,000 to about 1,000,000.

**Claim 22 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said nonionic amphiphilic polymer has a molecular weight of about 20,000 or less.

**Claims 23 - 29 (canceled)**

**Claim 30 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said plates are glass.

**Claim 31 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 18 in which said plates are plastic.

**Claim 32 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 31 in which said plastic is a member selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polystyrene, acrylic polymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, acrylonitrile polymers, poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene terephthalate glycolate), and poly(ethylene naphthalenedicarboxylate).

**Claim 33 (original):** A pre-cast polyacrylamide slab gel in accordance with claim 31 in which said plastic is a polystyrene-acrylonitrile blend.